

Noosa River Stakeholder Advisory Committee

Wednesday 14 April 2021, 5pm to 7pm

These draft minutes will be confirmed at the next NRSAC meeting of 12 May 2021

Minutes

Location: Coast Guard Station, Munna Point, Noosaville

Attendance:

Joint Chairs: Brett de Chastel: Chief Executive Officer, Noosa Council (NSC) and Angus Mitchell: General Manager, Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ)

Committee Members: Ben Broadfoot, Joanne Daley, Bruce Davidson, Michael Gloster, Jane Harris, Nick Hluszko, Richard Howard, Peter Hunnam, Chris Massoud, Phillip Moran, Noel Playford, Agnes Reed, Lachlan Stevens,

Apologies: David Stielow

Observers: Sandy Bolton, MP, Clare Stewart Noosa Mayor

Committee Support: Susan Codi King, Jake Hennessey, MSQ and Shaun Walsh, Craig Doolan, Noosa Council

The meeting commenced at 5.02pm

1. Welcome by Chairs

Welcome by Brett de Chastel and Angus Mitchell. They thanked members for their commitment and passion. Acknowledged attendance by observers Noosa Mayor Clare Stewart and State Member Sandy Bolton. Apology by David Stielow.

2. Acknowledgment of Country

Brett de Chastel acknowledged the Noosa River and catchment as home of the Kabi Kabi as the Traditional Custodians, whose lands and waters we all now share.

3. Introduction of Chairs and Members

Each participant introduced themselves and their relationship with the river. Common themes included:

- Breadth of experience and perspectives on the Noosa River
- Benefits of diversity and true representation in the committee
- The need for action and real outcomes, after 30 years of efforts not resulting in change
- Appreciative of attendance of leaders from Noosa Shire Council and Maritime Safety Queensland as action will require full commitment at the highest level.

4. Presentation on key existing initiatives by Maritime Safety Queensland and Noosa Council

Angus Mitchell provided a presentation on recent initiatives by MSQ. Management of Noosa River is now a key focus of MSQ, noting it had not had the highest focus in the past.

The presentation covered:

- Appointment of dedicated Noosa River Patrol Officer and dedicated MSQ office. Working towards additional resources at moment
- Speeding in the Noosa River including shaping behaviour and speeding data
- Education brochure “Know your Waterway”
- Updates to navigation aids including beacons and buoys
- War of wrecks – compliance work on 16 abandoned vessels on the Noosa River
- Boat ramp education signage
- Regulations governing “Liveaboard” vessels, limitations and management options including anchoring restrictions.

Angus sought feedback in the forthcoming period from the Committee on:

- the messaging and locations on the speeding signs
- information contained within the brochures
- locations of new navigation aids
- information contained on new boat ramp information signs
- directions concerning liveaboard vessels and anchoring restrictions.

There was discussion on:

- speeding vessels versus amount of wake
- compliance of speeding vessels
- use of digital education tools such as mobile phone apps
- integrated information on signage from multiple agencies to prevent plethora of signs
- education to other boat users not accessing the river from the boat ramp
- the use of on river vessels as un-managed housing option.

Action: Committee members to provide feedback on MSQ initiatives including the speed signs and brochures and other initiatives. (Please email to Susan Codi King)

There was ancillary discussion by committee members on the structure of the committee and its strategic efforts to best manage the river with focus on river health and river use. It was noted that the next items on the agenda would discuss this further.

5. Discussion and development of priority topics list and action plan.

Due to time limitations Brett de Chastel jumped to a discussion on priority topics and displayed a slide that summarised priority issues raised by NRSAC nominations with priority areas including:

- Mooring, Anchoring, Abandoned Vessels, Beaching
- Monitoring and Compliance of River Users
- Habitat Management
- Sedimentation.

Brett sought discussion from the committee on whether these reflect the immediate priorities of the committee. Discussions expressed many views including:

- An imperative to develop the priority actions now and flesh them out in coming meetings for implementation in coming months
- Whether there needed to be a more systematic process to determine the management framework
- Some actions were short term and some were medium to long term

To assist the committee members in determining agreed priorities and desired outcomes Brett used the whiteboard to show a basic framework to explore the issues and solutions. Discussion included:

- The need to establish the principles based on analysis for each issue: What is that the committee want to achieve on behalf of the community?
- How members of the committee could get together to work through priority issues
- Not waiting for next months meeting but proceeding with valuable interim work

Brett supported by Shaun Walsh proposed that a template be prepared based on the above and distributed to provide a common framework for issues analysis and options

Action: Shaun Walsh to prepare and distribute Noosa River Issue and Option Analysis template to provide a common framework for members and sub groups to explore topics

The committee supported the formation of sub-groups meeting on specific topics to advance discussion in-between meetings. It was noted that all the members of the committee should have the opportunity to participate in sub-group discussions.

Member Nick Hluszko volunteered to Chair the first sub-group meeting as early as possible. The focus would be on:

- vessel management including mooring anchoring and liveaboard arrangement.
- initiatives that Council could be pursuing.

An open invitation was extended to committee members to participate in the first subgroup chaired by Nick Hluszko, with the meeting to be arranged as soon as possible.

Brett confirmed that all members were happy to have the contact details shared within the group.

Action: Nick Hluszko to chair the subgroup focusing on vessel management and Council initiatives and convene discussions in the coming week.

6. Terms of Reference

It was noted that the functions of the committee are governed by the Terms of Reference. A draft Terms of Reference had been distributed in advance of this meeting, but there had been insufficient time at this committee meeting to properly discuss. Brett welcomed comments on the Terms of Reference for discussion at the next meeting.

Action: Committee members to provide feedback on NRSAC terms of reference in preparation for discussion at next meeting. (Please email to Shaun Walsh)

7. Items not Covered in Meeting Agenda

For the purposes of the minutes, the meeting did not cover the following items on the Agenda:

- Summary of Noosa Council initiatives on Noosa River and Foreshore management
- General Business

8. Closing

Noosa Mayor Clare Stewart (observer at the meeting) committed to preparing a statement for public release about participation and conduct of the meeting.

The next meeting would be scheduled for a month's time, 5pm to 7pm on the 12 May,

The Chairs noted their appreciation to committee members and invited all to an evening barbeque. Meeting finished at 7.15pm.

Summary of NRSAC Meeting Actions

Action	Meeting Date	Status
1. <i>Committee members to provide feedback on MSQ initiatives including the speed signs and brochures and other initiatives. (please email to Susan Codi King)</i>	14 April 2021	-
2. <i>Shaun Walsh to prepare Noosa River Issue and Option Analysis template to provide a common framework for members and sub-groups to explore topics</i>	14 April 2021	-
3. <i>Nick Hluszko to chair the subgroup focusing on vessel management and Council initiatives and convene discussions in the coming week.</i>	14 April 2021	-
4. <i>Committee members to provide feedback on NRSAC terms of reference in preparation for discussion at next meeting. (Please email to Shaun Walsh)</i>	14 April 2021	-